



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Botanical Bulletin.

Vol. 1.

APRIL, 1876.

No. 6.

HOW TO APPLY PRESSURE IN MAKING BOTANICAL SPECIMENS.—The use of “large stones, especially if roped round to give easy hold, or a few strong boxes filled with sand leave nothing to be desired”—by fine young fellows who delight in working off their superfluous energies; but for those of us who have reached the “shady side of forty” with no such surplus vitality to spare, the substitution of some mechanical device which will obviate the laborious lifting of heavy weights, becomes desirable. Simple screw presses are objectionable, especially in the hands of beginners. “The pressure is deceptive and apt to be far too great at first, yet from the nature of the instrument does not follow the contraction of the pile as its moisture escapes.” (Mac Owan.) In order to hit that happy medium *between press and squeeze*, essential to the preparation of a first rate specimen we must *know how much pressure* we are applying and it must be increased (at any rate not diminished) as the plant dries. We have had in satisfactory use for several seasons, a press so constructed that the platform which supports the pile of driers will yield under just the amount of pressure which we wish to give, thus precluding the possibility of excessive pressure and at the same time obviating all the objections to the use of a screw. The simplest arrangement for this purpose is that of a beam resting upon a fulcrum with the platform at one end and the necessary weight at the other. A screw is fixed several feet above the platform. In using place your pile of driers and plants on the platform and apply pressure with the screw until you sink the platform two or three inches. You thus *measure your pressure for it can not be greater than the counterpoise*, and what is of more importance as your pile contracts the platform will *follow it up* with a uniform pressure. Specimens recently gathered will be conveniently placed on the top where they will receive the pressure of the counterpoise, *minus the weight of the pile of driers* and afterwards towards the bottom where the pressure is greater. Non-essential contrivances for carrying out the plan must be left to the ingenuity of any person constructing such a press. Of course it is only the industrious collector at a permanent station who will want anything of the kind. Where only a few hundred specimens are to be made during the summer, stones will answer every purpose.—M. S. B.

SOME INDIANAPOLIS NOTES.—We have anticipated spring by a week of Maple blossoms, and *Cardamine rhomboidea*, var. *purpurea*, in full flower on the 24th ult. The Silver-Maples have, however, been crazy for a month and been frozen several times for their temerity. The White Poplars hung out their “caterpillars,” as John Burroughs aptly calls them, to the wind last week and are sorry for it to-night, I warrant. The robins, blue-birds, meadow-larks and red-wings have set their noses northward with force enough to stop a glacier, and so doubtless we may expect to play before many weeks.

I notice that a contributor to **FOREST AND STREAM**, Wm. Seaman, speaks of *Anacharis canadensis*, Planchon, as decaying readily in the aquarium and thus in two instances killing the fishes. After six months experience with it I rise to its defense. A more satisfactory plant I never hope to have. By clipping the main stem, the lateral shoots thrive, take root and our only complaint of it is that it

All communications addressed to John M. Coulter, Hanover, Ind.

Terms:—Subscription \$1.00 a year. Single Numbers 10 cents.